

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, EEW, UR, US

SUBJECT: BUSINESS FACILITATION ISSUES: BACKGROUND FOR

COMMERCIAL COMMISSION MEETING

REF: A) 75 MOSCOW 4108; B) STATE 216324; C) MOSCOW 11042

D) MOSCOW 2810

1. IN PREPARATION FOR PROPOSED SIXTH SESSION OF JOINT US-
USSR COMMERCIAL COMMISSION MEETING WE WOULD APPRECIATE
EMBASSY AND USCO PROVIDING MOST CURRENT BACKGROUND INFORMA-
TION ON VARIOUS ISSUES IN BUSINESS FACILITATION, AS HAS
BEEN DONE IN PAST (REF A).

2. IN AREA OF ACCREDITATION (REF A) WE AGAIN REQUEST
CURRENT READING FROM MFT, SCST, AND GOSBANK PROTOCOL
SECTIONS AS TO AMERICAN FIRMS SEEKING ACCREDITATION IN
MOSCO' AND WHEN, ACCORDING TO SOVIETS, THESE COMPANIES SUDD
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SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS. THERE APPEAR TO BE SOME DISCRE-

PANCIES IN INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY SOVIETS AND U.S. FIRMS.

FOR EXAMPLE, PARA 1 REF C NOTES THAT KOPPERS HAS APPLICATION ENDING WITH MFT. ACCORDING TO SENIOR KOPPERS OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, FIRM HAS NOT RPT NOT APPLIED FOR ACCREDITATION. PERHAPS REFERENCE IS TO COOPER INDUSTRIES, WHICH RECEIVED ACCREDITATION LAST JANUARY.

3. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE UPDATE ON WHICH ACCREDITED U.S. COMPANIES HAVE NOT YET MOVED INTO PERMANENT OFFICES AND WHOSE EMPLOYEES ARE NOT NOW LIVING IN PERMANENT APARTMENTS.

4. IN THE PAST, SOVIET CUSTOMS PROCEDURES, SHORTAGE OF HOTEL ROOMS AND THEIR GD HIGH COST, AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY U.S. SIDE ND IN COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUP ON BUSINESS FACILITATION. AT THIS TIME, UNLESS EMBASSY GD FEELS OTHERWISE, WE WOULD LD ONLY MAKE LOW-KEY REPRESENTATION ON THESE ISSUES SINCE OUR COMPLAINTS ARE WELL KNOWN TO SOVIETS AND PROSPECT FOR SOLUTIONS APPEAR DIM.

5. FINALLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON MERITS OF RAISING WITH SOVIETS ISSUES OF BONDED WAREHOUSE IN MOSCOW (ALSO UNDER DISCUSSION IN TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL CHANNELS) AND PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY U.S. FIRMS/TECHNICIANS WORKING ON PROJECTS OUTSIDE MOSCOW (PARA 4 REF D).

6. ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR ISSUES WE SHOULD DISCUSS IN BUSINESS FACILITATIONS' WORKING GROUP ALSO WELCOMED. ROBINSON

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